

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
ASHEVILLE DIVISION
1:21-cv-00046-GCM**

JAMES GARRETT,

Plaintiff,

v.

COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY,

Defendant.

Order

THIS MATTER comes before the Court on the “Plaintiff’s Consent Motion for Fees Pursuant to the Equal Access to Justice Act 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A) and Costs.” (ECF No. 22).

By consent of the parties, the Court orders as follows:

1. That the Social Security Administration shall pay \$5,900.00 in attorney fees and \$423.48 in costs to the Plaintiff in full settlement and satisfaction of any and all claims for attorney fees for legal services rendered under the Equal Access to Justice Act (“EAJA”), 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d).
2. With respect to Plaintiff’s signed assignment of EAJA fees to his attorney, in accordance with *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586 (2010), the Commissioner will determine whether Plaintiff owes a debt to the United States. If so, the debt will be satisfied first and, if any funds remain, they will be made payable to Plaintiff and mailed to Plaintiff’s counsel. If the Department of the Treasury reports to the Commissioner that the Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, the government will exercise its discretion and honor the assignment of EAJA fees and pay the awarded fees directly to Plaintiff's counsel.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED that Plaintiff’s Consent Motion for Fees (ECF No. 22)

is **GRANTED**.

SO ORDERED.

Signed: March 20, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Graham C. Mullen", written over a horizontal line.

Graham C. Mullen
United States District Judge

